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WINS CAR . . . Ruth Frost, of 1211 El Prado, accepts keys from Al Rylle, fleet manager of Vel's Ford Sales at 1420 Cabrillo, in exchange for "Golden Easter Egg" which she found during the firm's "Easter Egg Hunt" Sunday. She received a car as a prize in the contest. (Herald Photo)

Don't Try to Switch 'Lefty' to A Right-Hander, Medicos Advise

Should you try to change a left-handed child? No, medical experts say. Once a child has indicated he is left-handed he should be encouraged to develop his left-handedness, according to authorities. He should not be prodded into becoming right-handed or ambidextrous.

THIS IS THE consensus of a number of experts quoted in an article in Today's Health Magazine, published by the American Medical Assn. During the first months of life, babies are impartial in the use of their hands, said Dr. Arnold Gesell, a child-development authority.

However, if at any time between 18 months and 5 years your child shows a definite preference for his left hand, you should make no attempts to force him to use his right hand," Dr. Gesell said.

FORCING HIM to make this change can cause an emotional disturbance, according to Dr.

Kurt Rawitt, a psychiatrist. "On an anatomic level, forcing your left-handed child to switch his hand preference can lead to awkwardness, poor muscle coordination, slowness in thinking, mutism or delayed speech, stuttering . . . and difficulties in writing and reading," Dr. Rawitt said.

Furthermore, you can provoke your child, through conflicts, into becoming emotionally affected . . .

"IN GENERAL, he may become fearful, insecure and unhappy."

As for ambidexterity, it has been proved that true ambidexterity is rare and medical scientists believe an effort to make a left-handed child "either handed" usually ends up in making him a nervous and awkward youngster," the article said.

There are two schools of thought on why a child is left-handed, the article pointed out. The minority view is that the preference is psychological. Most psychiatrists subscribe to a biologic or anatomic explanation.

Their explanation has been based upon the idea of cerebral dominance," the article explained. "All of us, scientists say, have a favored side—hand, eye, foot—controlled by the opposite side of the brain (the dominant hemisphere)."

THIS GROUP stresses that a person with a clear-cut left-sidedness achieves as high a degree of physical harmony as any person with clear-cut right-sidedness, adding: "The lefty, in short, can be trained to be as skilled and as well-organized as his righty brother for the tasks of life—except for some adjustments to his right handed environment."

Mixed dominance, or confused sidedness, is the main concern of the doctors today. In recent years, scientists have discovered that is the mixed dominant children who have the highest percentage of stutters, retarded readers and defective writers. Conversely, among southpaws, there are non-stutterers, retarded readers and writers who are strong-sided lefties with a clear-cut sidedness.

"MOST EXPERTS . . . believe that developing strongly left-handed children is so important that a parent should have clinical guidance from a pediatrician," the article said. "A psychiatrist should be consulted if there are seeming emotional problems. Either of these authorities should be able to weed out those children who are only psychological lefties, or help you guide your child to healthy lefthandedness."

(Presented as a public service by the Southwest District of the Los Angeles County Medical Association)

The attack carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt has 16 decks including the island superstructure.



YOSHIKA TAGUCHI
Hiroshima Survivor

A-Bomb Blast Survivor to Speak Sunday

Miss Yoshika Taguchi, survivor of the atomic bomb blast on Hiroshima, Japan, will be the featured speaker Sunday evening at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1501 West Carson St.

Miss Taguchi will tell her story in the evening service at 7 p.m. The Rev. Ponder W. Gilliland, pastor, invites everyone in the area, of all nationalities, to attend this service and hear this unusual story.

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